

Foothill Transit Executive Board

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Foothill Transit Executive Board was held Friday, March 23, 2007 at the Foothill Transit Board Room, 1st Floor, 100 North Barranca Avenue, West Covina.

President Briesemeister called the meeting to order at 8:09 a.m. The following members were present, constituting a quorum of the Executive Board:

Wil Briesemeister, President
Paula Lantz, Vice President
Dan Kirby
Lola Storing
Doug Tessitor

Staff and Guests present:

Doran Barnes, Executive Director
Kevin McDonald, Deputy Executive Director
Darold Pieper, General Counsel
Peter Papadakis, Deputy Secretary

Pledge of Allegiance

President Briesemeister led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 23, 2007 AND SPECIAL MEETING OF MARCH 2, 2007

The regular meeting minutes of February 23, 2007 and the special meeting minutes of March 2, 2007 were approved as submitted.

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| Motion: | Member Storing, seconded by Member Kirby |
| Abstentions: | Member Kirby |
| Vote: | Duly carried |

President Briesemiester recognized Manuel Ortiz, Mayor of Irwindale, and former Executive Board Member and Councilmember Pat Wallach, City of El Monte.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Griffieth addressed the Board regarding the Silver Streak and commented on how well the new service is performing. She also asked the Board to recognize the efforts of the Coach Operators and their willingness to provide wheelchair lift assistance as needed. Ms. Griffieth expressed one area of concern in terms of the traffic congestion in downtown Los Angeles especially at the intersection of Hope Street and Wilshire Boulevard.

PRESENTATIONS:

Contractor's Operator of the Month Awards

Jeff Moore introduced and recognized the following awardee:
Carlos Rodriguez, Operator of the Month, Irwindale/Arcadia First Transit
Kevin Bates, Employee of the Quarter, Irwindale/Arcadia First Transit

Contractor's Operator of the Month Awards

Jim Andrews, Interim Manager, introduced and recognized the following awardee:
Jacqueline Salas, Operator of the Month, Pomona First Transit

On behalf of Foothill Transit, Executive Director Barnes presented Phil DeLisle a commendation commemorating his dedicated efforts over the years in providing service to Foothill Transit.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

The Executive Board adopted Consent Calendar agenda items 7-12.

Motion: Member Kirby, seconded by Member Lantz
Vote: Unanimously carried

REGULAR AGENDA:

SILVER STREAK LAUNCH UPDATE

Rahul Kumar, Director of Planning, reported that the Silver Streak service was implemented on March 18, 2007. The 60 foot articulated buses began servicing from Montclair to Downtown Los Angeles resulting in significant time savings for commuters that travel Line 480. WiFi has been installed on all 30 buses and customer reviews are positive in regards to this featured service. In addition, Foothill Transit is the first public transit provider in Southern California to offer free internet service to its customers. During the first week of the Silver Streak service, 'Transit ambassadors' and Los Angeles County Sheriff Deputies were on hand and available to greet passengers as they boarded the bus and answer any questions/concerns they may have had.

Felicia Friesema, Marketing & Communications Manager, reported on the extensive media coverage regarding the new Silver Streak service. KNX Radio, KFWB, ABC 7, NBC 4, CBS 2, KCAL 9, and the Los Angeles Times covered this groundbreaking event.

Mr. Kumar reported that since its implementation on March 18, 2007, there has been an average of 6,480 daily boardings resulting in over a 90% on-time performance schedule. Thus far, there has been an average travel time saved of 30 minutes.

The Executive Board received and filed the Silver Streak Launch Update Report.

Motion: Member Kirby, seconded by Member Storing
Vote: Unanimously carried

FISCAL YEAR 2008 REVENUE PROJECTIONS

Richard Hasenohrl, Director of Finance, reported that the State's proposed Fiscal Year 2007-08 budget does not include a funding allocation to the State Transit Assistance (STA) fund and the Metro Board has yet to authorize Municipal Operator Service Improvement Program (MOSIP) funding. Without these two sources, Foothill Transit's funding would be reduced by \$7.6 million. Although estimated increases in TDA funding and Proposition A will help, there will still be a \$1 million reduction in funding without STA and MOSIP.

The Executive Board received and filed the Fiscal Year 2008 Revenues Projection Report.

Motion: Member Kirby, seconded by Member Storing
Vote: Unanimously carried

CREATION OF LINE 196

Mr. Kumar reported that Foothill Transit has the opportunity to pick up Los Angeles Metro's Bus Line 684 which travels from Diamond Bar to the Brea mall. By modifying Foothill Transit Line 193 to continue its normal service route and to pick up the abandoned Metro Line 684, Foothill Transit can increase overall performance and ridership. Approval of the proposed route will result in \$43,000 in additional operating expenses and annual contractor cost increases respectively.

The Executive Board approved the above recommendation.

Motion: Member Kirby, seconded by Member Storing
Vote: Unanimously carried

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE UPDATE

Bob Arthur, Director of Special Projects, reported construction is anticipated to be complete in the latter part of April 2007. Carpeting has been laid and the new office furniture is scheduled for installation in the building in May 2007. Currently, the third and six floors are near completion and work is underway on the second and fifth floors to achieve the anticipated completion date.

The Executive Board Received and Filed the Foothill Transit new Administrative Offices Update.

Motion: Member Kirby, seconded by Member Storing
Vote: Unanimously carried

WEST COVINA PARK AND RIDE

Mr. Arthur reported that Foothill Transit staff has been working with Watry Design representatives to develop preliminary site plans for existing parking at Foothill Transit's new administrative office location at 100 South Vincent Avenue in West Covina. After discussions with Watry Design, staff recommends the Executive Board consider adding a sixth level to the parking structure at the West Covina location.

In response to Member Kirby, Executive Director Barnes advised that money can be used from the Transit Neighborhood Oriented Program (TONP) and Bond Measure to add an additional sixth level to the parking structure if the Board pleases to do so. Mr. Barnes explained that securing the funding for this endeavor requires the Executive Board's consent.

Motion: Member Kirby, seconded by Member Tessitor
Vote: Unanimously carried

IRWINDALE UTILITY USERS TAX

Kevin McDonald, Deputy Executive Director, reported that Foothill Transit staff has met with the City of Irwindale to discuss the possibility of waiving the Utility Users Tax (UUT). However, on March 15, 2007 Irwindale City staff advised they were trumpeting a recommendation to the City Council to rescind Foothill Transit's UUT waiver. If the Irwindale City Council rescinds its waiver of the UUT on CNG used to fuel buses, Foothill Transit's operating budget will increase as much as \$172,000 during Fiscal Year 2008.

Member Kirby expressed his concern regarding the potential environmental impact that Irwindale would incur if in fact CNG fuel were to be bused into the City. Member Lantz agreed and requested staff to review the number of routes and stops that Foothill Transit presently covers in Irwindale. She added that it seems unfair to be punished for using CNG fuel when it's the best option for all involved.

The Executive Board received and filed the update on Foothill Transit's Utility Users Tax (UUT) exemption in the City of Irwindale.

Motion: Member Lantz, seconded by Member Kirby
Vote: Unanimously carried

BOARD MEMBER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Member Kirby attended the APTA Conference in Washington D.C. and expressed thanks to Foothill Transit staff for their diligent efforts in keeping Foothill Transit atop the transit industry as a premier agency.

Executive Director Barnes advised that service changes required due to the Silver Streak launch resulted in a slight increase in customer complaints. Staff is working in earnest to research and resolve all complaints filed. Lastly, the Silver Streak Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will be held on April 2, 2007 at the Pomona Transit Center.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Executive Board adjourned at 9:30 a.m.